

IN THE CLAIMS

*Please amend and consider the claims as follows:*

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for processing open-end mutual fund order messages at a designated centralized securities Exchange, including purchase and redemption transactions of shares of an open-end mutual fund, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving order messages [[tin]] associated with purchase or redemption of open-end mutual fund shares in Exchange Equity Order Entry Format at a server from at least one of a plurality of first servers at the designated centralized Exchange, said open-end mutual fund being listed on the Securities Exchange as an Exchange listed open-end mutual fund (ELF), and having a total number of currently issued shares which is variable as a function of periodic adjustments for newly purchased shares and redeemed shares;

aggregating the purchase and redemption orders by of the open-end mutual fund by Member Firm;

reformatting the order messages to Fund Order Entry Format at the at least one first server; and

transmitting the reformatted order messages from the at least one first server to at least one of a plurality of second servers at Fund/Securities Clearing Agents for confirmation, clearing and settlement including the issuance and redemption of the open-end mutual fund shares by the open-end mutual fund issuer.

2. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting further comprises the step of forwarding the reformatted order messages from the at least one first server to at least one third server ~~of servers~~ of at least one ~~of the~~ individual Funds and Transfer Agents for processing and confirmation.

3. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 2, wherein the step of forwarding comprises forwarding said reformatted order messages from the at least one first server, in single, batch and multi-batch, throughout the day.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claims 2 or 3, wherein the step of forwarding comprises forwarding said reformatted order messages from the at least one first server, in single, batch and multi-batch, at the end of the day.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving confirmation messages at the at least one first server from at least one of said second servers at the Funds/Securities Clearing Agents.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 5, wherein said confirmation messages are received at the at least one first server periodically and at the end of the day.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 5, further comprising the step of reformatting the confirmation messages at the at least one first server and transmitting said confirmation messages from the at least one first server to servers at at least one of a plurality of ordering Member Firms.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 7, wherein the step of transmitting said confirmation messages further comprises the step of transmitting said confirmation messages from the at least one first server, in single, batch and multi-batch, throughout the day.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claims 7 or 8, wherein the step of transmitting said confirmation messages further comprises the step of delaying the transmission of said confirmation messages from the at least one first server, in single, batch and multi-batch, until the end of the day.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 1, further-comprising the step of clearing and settlement of order messages including the issuance and redemption of mutual fund shares by the mutual fund issuer through the second servers at at least one of said Fund/Securities Clearing Agents and fourth servers at at least one of a plurality of Depositories using at least one Fund/Securities Clearing Agent money settlement system.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising the step of paying at least one of cash dividends and reinvested dividends to at least one of a Member Firm's Depository Account and a Fund/Securities Clearing Agent's Account.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 2, further comprising the step of receiving the order messages at the server for tabulation.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 12, further comprising the step of storing the order messages in a database.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 13, further comprising the step of storing information relating to said order messages in the database by dates, Member Firms and mutual funds, including gross purchase and redemption and historical orders, dividends, and net fund positions.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 13, further comprising the step of receiving dividend information at the at least one first server for tabulation of ~~order message information, comprising~~ correct calculation of each fund's NAV, ~~calculation of~~ fund total returns over different time periods, and fund assets held at each Member Firm of each securities Exchange.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of storing NAV and total return information in the database including dividends and fund assets held at each Member Firm at different points in time.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of sorting orders, performing calculations relating to orders at the at least one first server including the steps of tabulating orders into records and generating reports.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for processing open-end mutual fund order messages, including purchase and redemption ~~and buy and sell~~ transactions, comprising the steps of:

receiving purchase and redemption order messages in Exchange Equity Order Entry Format at a first server of ~~an~~ a centralized Exchange or Market Listed Fund from a second server ~~of at~~ at least one Member Firm;

matching and executing the order messages for each open-end mutual fund by member firm at the first server of the Exchange or Market Listed Fund, each said open-end mutual fund being listed on the centralized Exchange or Market Listed Fund Market as Exchange or Market listed open-end mutual fund; and

transmitting the matched and executed order messages from the first server of the Exchange or Market Listed Fund to servers at at least one of a plurality of ordering Member

Firms for confirmation; ~~and~~

reformatting the matched and executed order messages to Fund Order Entry Format at the first server; and

transmitting the reformatted order messages to servers at at least one of a plurality of Funds/Securities Clearing Agents for clearing and settlement.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 18, wherein the steps of transmitting comprise the steps of forwarding said order messages and reformatted order messages from the first server, in single, batch and multi-batch, throughout the day.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 18, wherein the steps of transmitting comprise the steps of forwarding said order messages and reformatted order messages from the first server, in single, batch and multi-batch, at the end of the day.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 18, further comprising the step of transmitting the matched and executed order messages from the first server to a third server for tabulation and processing.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 21, further comprising the step of storing the matched and executed order messages in a database.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 22, further comprising the step of storing information relating to said matched and executed order messages by date, Member Firms and funds, including current period gross purchase and redemption and historical orders, dividends, and net fund positions in the database.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 23, further comprising the step of receiving dividend information at the third server for tabulation of ~~order message information, comprising~~ correct calculation of each fund's NAV, ~~calculation of fund~~ total returns over different time periods, and fund assets held at each Member Firm of each Securities Exchange.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of storing NAV and total return information including dividends and fund assets held at each Member Firm at different points in time in the database.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 25, further comprising the steps of sorting orders, performing calculations relating to orders including tabulating orders into records and generating reports in the third sever.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 18, wherein the step of transmitting the matched and executed reformatted order messages from the first server to the servers of the Funds/Securities Clearing Agents further includes the step of transmitting matched and executed reformatted order messages from the first server to servers of at least one of a plurality of Depositories.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 27, further comprising the step of settlement of said matched and executed reformatted orders, including issuance and redemption of mutual fund shares by the mutual fund issuer, through servers at at least one of the Fund/Securities Clearing Agents using at least one Fund/Securities Clearing Agent's continuous, daily and other money settlement system.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 28, further comprising the step of paying at least one of cash dividends and reinvested dividends to at least one of a Member Firm's Depository Account and a Fund/Securities Clearing Agent's Account.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented system for processing open-end mutual fund order messages, including purchase and/or redemption ~~and buy and sell transactions orders,~~ at a centralized Exchange comprising:

a first server at the centralized Exchange operable to: receive for receiving the purchase



and/or redemption open-end mutual fund order messages in Exchange Equity Order Entry Format from one or more second servers ~~at at least one of a plurality of designated Exchanges~~ at least one Member Firm, said open-end mutual fund being listed as a security on the Exchange; aggregate the aggregating orders[[,]] by fund and by each Member Firm [[,]]; reformat ~~reformatting~~ the order messages to Fund Order Entry Format ~~at the first server;~~ and transmit ~~transmitting~~ the reformatted order messages to at least one third server[[s]] at at least one of a plurality of Fund/Securities Clearing Agents for confirmation, clearing and settlement.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 30, wherein the at least one third server[[s]] at at least one of the Fund/Clearing Agents forwards the reformatted order messages to at least one fourth server[[s]] at at least one of individual Funds and Transfer Agents for processing and confirmation.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented system of claim 30, wherein said first server transmits said order and reformatted messages, in single, batch and multi-batch throughout the day.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented system of claim 30, wherein said first server transmits said order and reformatted messages, in single, batch and multi-batch, at the end of the day.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 30, wherein said first server receives confirmation messages from the at least one third server[[s]] at at least one of said Fund/Clearing Agents.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented system of claim 34, wherein the confirmation messages are received at said first server periodically and at the end of the day.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 34, wherein the first server reformats the confirmation messages and transmits the confirmation messages to the one or more second servers at at least one of a plurality of ordering Member Firms.

37. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 36, wherein said first server transmits the confirmation messages to the one or more second servers at at least one of the Member Firms, in single, batch and multi-batch, throughout the day.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 36, wherein said first server delays the transmission of said confirmation messages to the one or more second servers at at least one of the Member Firms, until the end of the day.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 30, wherein the at least one third server[[s]] at at least one of said Fund/Securities Clearing Agents and at least one fifth server[[s]] at ~~at least one of said~~ one or more Depositories use at least one of said Fund/Securities Clearing Agent's money settlement systems to settle orders included in said reformatted order messages.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented system of claim 30, wherein at least one of the Fund/Transfers Agents pays at least one of cash dividends and reinvested dividends to at least one of a Member Firm's Depository Account and a Fund/Securities Clearing Agent Account.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented system of claim 30, wherein said first server tabulates said order messages.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented system of claim 30, wherein the first server further comprises a database for storing said order messages.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented system of claim 42, wherein said database stores information relating to said order messages by date, Member Firms and funds, including gross purchase and redemption and historical orders, dividends, and net fund positions.

44. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented system of claim 42, wherein said first server receives dividend information from the at least one third server[[s]] at at least one of the Fund/Transfer Agents for tabulation of ~~order message information, comprising~~ correct calculation of each fund's NAV, ~~calculation of fund~~ total returns over different time periods, and fund assets held at each Member Firm of each securities Exchange.

45. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented system, of claim 44, wherein said database stores NAV and total return information including dividends and fund assets held at each Member Firm at different points in time.